the necessity for easy access to that place because of its rising importance as a planting centre. The Western Outlet road was unfit for cart traffic since the floods of 1099. The other routes connecting Devicolam with the British parts were the Northern Outlet road leading to Udumalapet and the other to Madura *via* Bodinayakanur. A journey by either route was very costly. But it was gratifying that the Government were contemplating the construction of a road from Pallivasal to Neriamangalam in place of the damaged Western Outlet road and also the opening of a branch railway line from Trippunittura to the foot of the ghats near Neriamangalam *via* Muvattupuzha and Tattakad. Those two works should be expedited.

As for means of communication within the taluk, although the Government had sanctioned the construction of the Devicolam-Kumili road, only the first section of 8 miles from Devicolam to Periakanal had been completed. That had benefited the K. D. H. P. Company alone. It would not benefit the ryots as well, unless extended up to Tondimalai, the centre of the cardamom area. The food-stuffs and other articles required for the inhabitants of Devicolam were taken from Bodinayakanur *via* Bodimettu and the cost of transport was heavy because of the absence of a cart-road. A road from Bodimettu to Tondimalai and another from Periakanal to Pallivasal should be opened at an early date.

Water supply in the Devicolam town was made through pipes leading from reservoirs located at various places. The reservoirs having been damaged by the floods of 1099, water supply had become scanty. The previous Dewan, Dewan Bahadur Mr. Raghaviah had promised to open a common reservoir in a central place. But no steps were taken in furtherance of that proposal. The new scheme should be pushed through.

Another proposal made by the member was about the supply of electric lights to the Devicolam town. There were places situated half a mile away from Devicolam and belonging to the K. D. H. P. Company lighted by electricity. When the new power-house at Pallivasal became a realised fact, electrifying the Devicolam town would be easy. Before sanctioning the erection of the power-house the Government should impose a condition that the company should supply electricity to the Devicolam town at a reasonable price.

Malayalam was being taught in the Government schools at Anjanad, while the mother-tongue of the local inhabitants was Tamil. It would therefore be desirable to teach Tamil in those schools.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Tampi, you ask for the extension of the railway from Alwaye to Pallivasal.

MEMBER: I do not press it.

DEWAN: Then you ask for the speedy construction of the Tattakad line and for the road along the Valentine Trace. These two matters will be considered. As you know, at present, a survey is being made and we will have to wait and see what the result of the survey reveals.

Then you want a branch road fit for cart traffic from Periakanal to Pallivasal through Bison Valley. As estimate for Rs. 4,400 and odd has been sactioned for the section from Periakanal to Bison Valley, and the question of its extension will have to be examined.

In regard to water supply to the Devicolam town, the Chief Engineer points out that there are difficulties in the way of providing water supply for the people in Devicolam generally as the arrangements of the Goverenment contemplated would only supply the needs of the Government officials stationed there. There are local difficulties and it is not easy to find a way out. As regards electric lighting I shall ask the Commissioner whether it can be done.

As regards the teaching of Tamil in the Government schools at Anjanad I shall ask the Director of Public Instruction to examine the matter, ascertain local opinion and place his views before the Government.

127. Needs of the Peermade taluk.

MR. O. P. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR (*Member, Peermade taluk*) said that, although there were no permanent residents in the Peermade taluk, there were

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many estate coolies and officers living there. They depended on the rice got down from the adjoining British parts, which was sold at high prices. There were many blocks of swampy areas and patches of grass and *eeta* lands in the midst of registered estates in the Peermade taluk fit for paddy cultivation. Paddy was being cultivated in portions of the Pookulam and Karinkulam estates and an acre of land was yielding nearly 300 *paras* of paddy. If, therefore, all the available area in the taluk be registered for paddy cultivation, all the paddy required for local consumption could be produced and prices would fall. Besides assigning such lands, the Agricultural Department should also be asked to instruct the people in regard to the selection of seeds and time and modes of cultivation.

With a view to increase the area under paddy cultivation, the Government had sanctioned, on the report of a committee appointed to inspect the several reserved forests included in the Peermade taluk and select areas suitable for paddy cultivation, the registry of some swamps recommended by the committee for disafforestation. In the G. O. issued on the subject, it was stated that the opinion of the Conservator would be obtained in regard to the registry of one of the swamps selected by the committee, *viz.*, the Paykulam swamp. But it was not known what the Conservator's view was. The G. O. also stated that the question of registry of lands around the swamps selected by the committee for assignment under the Land Colonisation Scheme was being referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests. The result of the further correspondence in the matter was also not known. The Land Colonisation Rules were passed in 1924 and Land Colonisation Committees had been appointed to select lands for colonisation purposes. The committee for the Peermade taluk should be asked to submit its report without delay. The lands selected by the committee and other lands, which could be disafforested without serious detriment to forest conservancy, should be assigned in small blocks.

The Vernacular School at Peermade was housed in a small rented building quite insufficient for the purpose. There were only 2 rooms and a portico for holding 4 classes. An estimate for the construction of a new building for the school was prepared some time ago but no further steps were taken. If the Government could not order the immediate construction of a new building, the school might be removed to the local *satram*, unused by the people, from the next school year. There were 8 rooms in the *satram* and they would be quite sufficient not only for holding the school but also as the quarters of the schoolmasters. The rent paid for the school building and the house-rent allowances given to the schoolmasters could thereby be saved. Further, the *satram* with some slight structural alternations, would be spacious enough for holding the higher classes, if opened in future.

The inhabitants of Arudai and Kuttikanam were suffering from scarcity of water during the hot weather. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Government at the 20th session, the sinking of a few wells and the deepening of existing ones were sanctioned. But no work had actually been done. The water supply question should be immediately tackled.

The member's next request was that shade trees should be planted in the premises of Government buildings after clearing the undergrowth. Except in the case of the premises of buildings occupied by big officers, there was thick undergrowth in the premises of Government buildings in Peermade. That was a source of danger to the inhabitants when forest fires occurred. The expenditure could be met from the allotment for the maintenance of a fuel coupe in Peermade, and the area set apart for the planting jungle-wood trees for fuel, might be registered away.

A separate magistrate should be appointed for the Peermade taluk. There was such an officer prior to 1098, when the Tahsildar was invested with magisterial powers. The Tahsildar could not bestow adequate attention to the magisterial work amidst his heavy Revenue work. In view of the increase in the number of criminal cases in the taluk and in view of the fact that magistrates had been appointed even for smaller taluks, a separate magistrate should be appointed for the Peermade taluk also.

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There were no waiting-sheds attached to the local Magistrate's Court and consequently, the parties and the vakils coming from other places were put to much hardship and inconvenience. At least two thatched waiting-sheds, one for Indians and the other for Europeans, should be constructed at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar, I was just consulting the Director of Agriculture on the subject of paddy cultivation. As you are aware, Government have sanctioned disafforestation of 790 acres in the Peermade taluk. Assignment of this land will take place after the registry of this block under the Land Colonisation Scheme.

I am afraid I have not been able to get any information about the construction of the new building for the school. I shall direct the Director's attention to that.

The deepening and cleaning of wells is being continued out of the annual maintenance grants. Estimates for new wells will be called for in cases where they are deemed necessary by the P. W. D.

MEMBER: I do not know whether any wells for the public are constructed. They are sinking wells only for the use of the officers. The labour class have no wells.

DEWAN: Why can't the public sink wells?

MEMBER: The labour class are not in a position to sink wells. There is a lot of public ground.

DEWAN: You write to the Chief Engineer and point out three places where you would like to have wells sunk.

As regards planting of shade trees, shade trees are being planted. I have seen them myself.

MEMBER: That is in the Assistant Engineer's quarters, but not for the public.

DEWAN: I do not know where his quarters are. I have seen shade trees planted.

MEMBER: About the waiting-shed ?

DEWAN: I am sorry it cannot be built.

128. Needs of the Nagercoil Municipality.

MR. S. MAHALINGA MUDALIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) represented that the Nagercoil Municipality was, among the 19 Municipalities in the State, next in importance only to Trivandrum. While the Trivandrum Municipality kept an establishment of 250 scavengers and maintained 1,000 street lights, the Nagercoil Municipality kept an establishment of 180 scavangers and maintained 765 street lights. Besides, the latter had to attend to public works in the town in connection with the maintenance of roads, streets, lanes, tanks, wells, etc., costing more than Rs. 10,000 annually, works which the Trivandrum Municipality had not to do. 68 works were already engaging the attention of the Council. In point of sanitation also Nagercoil was as important as Trivandrum. Further, questions regarding additional facilities for child-welfare, opening of grazing grounds, widening narrow roads, etc., were under the consideration of the Council and involved expenditure of thousands of rupees. The grant given to that Municipality should therefore be raised to at least half the amount granted to the Trivandrum Municipality.

The Nagercoil Municipality was paying a sum of Rs. 1,400 annually on account of pensionary contribution on behalf of its employés. The Council was of the view that it could undertake to pay pension to its retired employés. The proposal should be allowed and the recovery of pensionary contribution stopped.

The Government were supplying, free of cost, the lymph for vaccination outside the municipal limits of Nagercoil. The Municipal Council was paying a sum of nearly Rs. 300 annually on account of the price of lymph required for vaccination in the town. The Government ought not to make any distinction in such matters between towns and villages. Again, the Municipal vaccinators were vaccinating not

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